THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) Exporters of all minerals are eligible for drawal of foreign exchange under Reserve Bank of India's Blanket Foreign Exchange Permit scheme under the discretionary list of products eligible for foreign exchange.

(b) Exports of Granite in the form of cut dimensional blocks, slabs, tiles etc. during the year 1987-88 is provisionally placed at 90 crores. Distinction between the select and non-select export products has been dispensed with and under the Import Policy for 1988—91, exports of cut and polished granite qualify for export promotion.

(c) Granite is classified as a minor mineral under the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957. Other support measures identified for boosting export of this value added item include grant of 100 per cent Export Oriented Unit status to minerals including granite.

Export of Leather Footwear

1084. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that leather footwear industry has been extended the benefit of import of machinery equipment under OGL at concessional rate of duty whereas the same facility has not been extended to rubber and canvas footwear industry; if so, what are the reasons thereof;

(b) what is the annual total export of leather footwear and rubber/canvas footwear at present and what is the growth targeted for the next few years for both the items; and

(c) whether Government feel that modernisation and expansion of production of rubber/canvas footwear industry would lead to a substantial rise in their exports; if so, whether his Ministry would recommend measures in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) **Yes, Sir. This facility has been extended** to leather footwear as leather and leather goods industries have been identified as an export thrust sector whereas rubber and canvas footwear does not fall in this category.

(b) Export figures of leather footwear and rubber/canvas footwear are given below:—

(Value : Rs. crores)

Year	Leather footwear	Rubber/ canvas footwear
1987-88	128.03	6.80
1988-89	200.00 (target)	10.00 (target)
April-Dec., 88	73.50 (Provisional)	4.55 (Provisional)

No export target for 1989-90 and subsequent years for leather footwear and rubber/canvas footwear has been fixed.

[*Source*: Council for Leather Exports and Chemicals and Allied Products Export Promotion Council].

(c) A proposal made in this respect by the Industry is under examination.

Loan from Japan for Airbus A-320

1085. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have approved a Japanese loan worth $ 250 million towards the purchase of Airbus A-320; and